



SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF INDIANA

TODD ROKITA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: FCC Doc# 03-167

August 4, 2003

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As Indiana's Secretary of State, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to authorize SBC to provide long distance service in our state.

I regularly work with citizens, communities, and businesses throughout Indiana. What I frequently hear is that people want more services at lower prices. This is true particularly in rural areas and smaller communities. Certainly the free market can provide the opportunities and services that our citizens seek. I believe that the FCC's approval of SBC's application to offer long distance service will further open the market for competition and as a result provide more opportunities for advanced communications services to our citizens. The privately funded infrastructure improvements will benefit business owners and citizens as well as public servants. These improvements will help to build more productive and vibrant communities throughout Indiana.

SBC provides basic telephone service to thousands of Hoosier households and businesses and offers a broad range of enhanced telecommunications products. Allowing SBC to add long distance calling to its range of services will broaden the options available to SBC's customers and will increase the competition that is already forcing companies to innovate, reduce prices, and improve products. Indiana's entire economy will benefit if the Commission approves SBC's application to provide long distance service.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 317.232.6536 if I can provide you with any further information.

Sincerely,

Todd Rokita
Indiana Secretary of State